

533, 408

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
21 May 2004 (21.05.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2004/041870 A2**

- (51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **C08F 2/00**
- (21) International Application Number:  
PCT/US2003/034597
- (22) International Filing Date: 30 October 2003 (30.10.2003)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:  
60/422,461 30 October 2002 (30.10.2002) US  
60/455,508 18 March 2003 (18.03.2003) US
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- Published:  
— without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report
- For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

WO 2004/041870 A2

(54) Title: THE USE OF SULFUR CONTAINING INITIATORS FOR ANIONIC POLYMERIZATION OF MONOMERS

(57) Abstract: An initiator is presented for anionically polymerizing monomers, to provide a functional head group on the polymer. A polymer having a functional head group derived from a sulfur containing anionic initiator, and optionally as additional functional group resulting from the use of a functional terminating reagent, coupling agent or linking agent is also provided. A method is presented for anionically polymerizing monomers comprising the step of polymerizing the monomers with a sulfur containing anionic initiator to provide a functional head group on the polymer. An elastomeric compound, comprising a functional polymer and filler is also described. Also provided is a tire having decreased rolling resistance resulting from a tire component containing a vulcanizable elastomeric compound.